Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 02029 291010Z ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 PRS-01 /055 W

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O 290925Z NOV 77 FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5552

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOGADISCIO 2029

ALSO FOR AID/W VC.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAID, OVIP

SUBJECT: SOMALIA WELCOMES INITIATION OF US ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

REF: MOGADISCIO 1915

1. I WAS PLEASED WITH THE RECEPTION SOMALI MINISTER OF MINERALS AND WATER DEVELOPMENT HUSSEIN ABDULKAR KASSIM AND PLANNING COMMISSION DIRECTOR GENERAL MOHAMED SHEIK HASSAN ACCORDED VISITING AID REPS CAMPBELL AND GULICK DURING THEIR INITIAL CALLS ON NOV 27.

THE MINISTER PUT IT MOST EXPLICITLY AT THE END OF THE MORNING WHEN HE SAID THAT PURSUANT TO CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN PRESIDENT SIAD AND AMBASSADOR LOUGHRAN, THE GOVT OF THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (GSDR) WELCOMES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AMERICAN BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SOMALIA. THE GSDR IN TURN WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO FACILITATE APPOINTMENTS, DISCUSSIONS AND TRAVEL DURING THE AID TEAM'S TEMPORARY STAY. IT WILL ALSO TAKE STEPS TO ASSURE THAT PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED AID PERSONNEL WILL BE MADE WELCOME IN SOMALIA AND ENJOY THE NECESSARY LATITUDE TO PERFORM THEIR

FUNCTIONS.

2. THE MINISTER SAID HE SAW NO DIFFICULTY IN HAVING HIS REMARKS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 MOGADI 02029 291010Z

INCORPORATED IN A NOTE VERBALE TO THE EMBASSY. HE ACCEPTED MY COMMENT THAT THIS WOULD SERVE AS A USEFUL INTERIM CHARTER FOR A US ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN SOMALIA.

3. AT THE CLOSE OF THE MEETING THE MINISTER DREW ME ASIDE AND ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY DECISION ON HIS TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON. HE SAID WHILE THERE HE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO DISCUSS ASSISTANCE

PROGRAMS. I HOPE THAT I MAY BE ABLE TO GIVE THE MINISTER AN AFFIRMATIVE ANSWER SOON. KASSIM WILL APPARENTLY BE RESPONSIBLE TO THE PRESIDENT FOR US DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN SOMALIA. I BELIEVE A FIRST HAND EXPOSURE ACQUAINTANCE WITH SOME OF THE PRINCIPALS IN WASHINGTON WILL BE HELPFUL TO KASSIM AND CONTRIBUTE TO OUR EFFORTS IN LAUNCHING A BILATERAL PROGRAM HERE. LOUGHRAN

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